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Cobb, Noted Humorist, Approves Atmospheric Details of 'Mississippi'

In Hollywood parlance there are just two kinds of pictures, "straight" and "production." A production is a picture with a tremendous lot of details, elaborate sets and mobs of people in costume. Such a picture is Paramount's "Mississippi," coming Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 2, 3 and 4, to the Torrance Theatre. And a production rarely functions without a technical expert. In the case of "Mississippi," Irvin Cobb, writer and story-teller extraordinary, acted the expert. "Mississippi," which stars Bing Crosby, W. C. Fields and Joan Bennett, is full of atmosphere. Handsome gamblers, quick with the extra ace or pistol. Woolly-headed butlers. Hound dogs bay- ing amid the magnolias. And strutting players of the crime days when the villain always was a "darn Yankee."

Obviously, Cobb was the best-known Dixie expert to sit in judgment on the decor of the 1850's. True, he wasn't born in Mississippi, but in Kentucky, which is sufficiently south of the line. Now was he alive at that time, because if he were old enough to have fought duels and drunk juleps, seasoned real Colonels under the table, his memory would be too hazy to be relied upon.

The hardest job of the atmosphere expert is to sit still for hours and just watch. Because writing is a chair occupation, Cobb soon adapted himself. He is a large, florid man in a grey suit and a hard-brimmed hat like they used to wear during the Spanish-American war. His advent in Hollywood reduced Ernst Lubitsch to second place as the steadiest cigar-smoker. Though of considerable size, Cobb is taut and trim, and has a brisk though muscle-bound gait. He is even more solemn than he looks in his photographs. As judge, Cobb handed down 18 decisions on the filming of "Mississippi." Three concerned hounds, two the right amount of mint in juleps and one diction. He made it clear that "Yo'all" is proper Dixie if addressed to more than one person at a time.

In the cotton-loading scene Cobb issued the dictum that the bales should be bound with jute and rope, and not burlap. This got in the papers, and an indignant mayor in Texas wrote in to say that burlap was used for certain and that in his march through Georgia, Sherman, among other crimes, burned down a lot of burlap mills. So Cobb, who makes no pretense to infallibility, reversed the decision in favor of the mayor.

Then one day, a player told Cobb that he had read for the first time a book of his, and would be pleased to autograph it. Cobb said he would be delighted. The player went off to return with the book, a ten-page opus on cocktail mixing which Cobb had written for a Kentucky distiller who had distributed 100,000 copies free. Cobb felt perked up for the day, because that was the only book he had autographed while he was in Hollywood.

Both Tarlington, probably Cobb's only living rival as a teller of stories on the American scene, wrote the play from which "Mississippi" was adapted. Directed by Edward Sutherland, the picture features Queenie Smith, the Cabin Kids and Gail Patrick.

Fern Avenue SCHOOL

Vacation is over and we are back at our work. We are much pleased to hear that Miss Thomas, sixth grade teacher who has been very ill, is much better. She has decided not to return this term. Miss Dorothy Carson will take her room the remainder of the term. Several important events are on our calendar: The evening of May 1, from 7 to 9, is open house, to which we welcome you all. May 17, operetta, "Uncle Sam's Visit to the Old Woman in the Shoe." Through the kindness of the high school, it will be held in the high school gymnasium. Time, 7:30 p. m. Admission, adults 15c, children 10c. Music by the glee clubs and folk-dances by the physical education classes. May 28, spring track meet. June 4, paper drive. Please save and tie papers.

To Honor Pioneer Women
SALT LAKE CITY, Utah. (U.P.)—A statue commemorating five pioneer women who came to Lincoln, Utah, in 1860, has been erected here by the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.

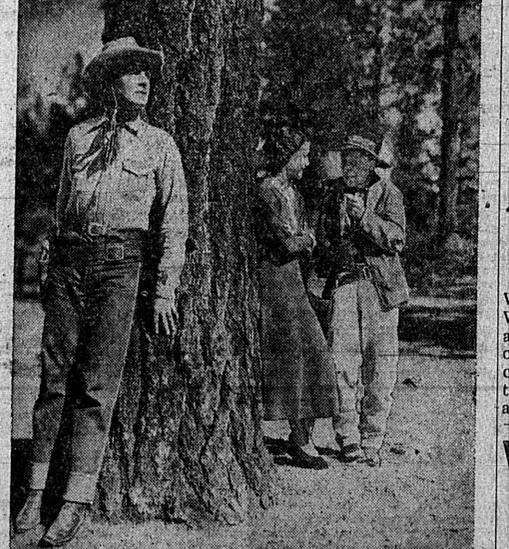
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New York Comedy Coming Sunday and Monday to Torrance Theatre



Virginia Bruce, Robert Taylor, Pinky Tomlin in "Times Square Lady."

Players From "Dixie" Land Turn "Westerners" In Film



A thrill-filled and exciting Zane Grey picture, which combines murder drama with breath-taking outdoor action, Paramount's "Rocky Mountain Mystery" brings one of the most competent casts ever seen in this type of picture to the Torrance Theatre where it will be shown Sunday and Monday. Randolph Scott seems to enjoy what he is over-hearing of the conversation between Ahn Sheridan and Charles "Chic" Sale.

Tiny Shirley and Barrymore Share Honors In New Film



An absorbing story, and the presence of the one and only Shirley Temple, make "The Little Colonel," which opened a four-day engagement yesterday at the Plaza Theatre, Hawthorne, an extraordinary screen event. Once again, America's golden-haired sweetheart captures, with her unpretentious art, her honest acting, the hearts of old and young. She is co-starred with Lionel Barrymore in this heart-stirring superb story of a bitter Kentucky family feud during the days fol- lowing the Civil war, when prejudices still rankled, and a woman who dared give her heart to a hated Yankee was ostracized by friends and relations. As if this wealth of surprises were not enough, this Fox film picture produced by E. G. Desiring ends in a blaze of Technicolor. For the first time in her meteoric career, Shirley Temple is presented in color. Barrymore's presentation of the obdurate colonel is masterly. Commendable, also, is the fine work of the supporting cast.

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Note: Read every line or you may overlook your name and the Free Tickets.

THE BEST OF ENEMIES



Paramount's "McFadden's Flats," coming Tuesday and Wednesday, next week, to the Torrance Theatre, presents Walter Kelly, making his film debut, and Andy Clyde as a pair of old cronies who just enjoy arguing with each other. Jane Darwell and Richard Cromwell appear in the cast, directed by Ralph Murphy. "Companion feature on these nights, "Shadow of Doubt," starring Ricardo Cortez and Virginia Bruce.

What the World Most Needs Is 10-Dollar Raise

Hilarious Comedy Gives the
Lowdown On Love
and Dollars

"10 Raise," the new Fox Film comedy-drama, which opens today at the Torrance Theatre for a three-day run, has a history behind it. Five years ago Fox bought this story with the idea of featuring Edward Everett Horton in it. Various causes prevented the realization of this project until this year.

Not until the skillful comedian's name was on the dotted line was work on the script begun, and the picture, now offered to local movie fans, started. Co-featured with Horton is Karen Morley.

The story concerns a timid bookkeeper, plunged in ledgers for years, suddenly falling in love with a new stenographer, and forced to balance the problem of a staid paycheck and an ecstatic romance.

The stony, patient and understanding, tries to cure her sweetheart of inferiority, and of his fear of the boss. Not until her man is swigged good and proper, and turns his humiliation at the hands of a sharper, into profit for himself, does the worm turn and the erstwhile unassuming office slave changes into commanding personality.

Laughs and heart-tugs alternate in this romantic human interest picture. The supporting cast consists of Alan Dinehart, Glen Roles, Berton Churchill, Rosina Lawrence, Ray Walker, Frank Melton and William Benedict.

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FRESH milking goat, 1425 W. 221st, street, near Denker, east of Torrance.

27. Help Wanted: Female
GIRL for general housework, family of two. Sunday off. Ref. required. Call at 1028 Cota.

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HOUSE, lot, garage, \$1475. See Saturday, Sunday; handy to Torrance. 914 Garnet street, Redondo Beach.

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